(b) if so, the details of the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Surface Transport, the project for mechanised coal handling facilities at Paradip Port was sanctioned by the Govt. in April, 1993 at a cost of Rs. 587.41 crores. The project was scheduled to be completed in April, 1998. However, present anticipated date of completion is December, 1999. The Revised Cost Estimates are yet to be prepared by the Paradip Port Trust after getting a realistic picture. The progress of the project is being monitored regularly by a High Level Steering Committee (HLSC).

[Translation]

Irrigation by Solar Energy

6494. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether irrigation with the help of Solar Energy is being done in the Country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign country has provided financial assistance for these experiments;

(d) if so, the name of the country and the conditions thereof; and

(e) the nature of pilot projects likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1993-94 Government have introduced a new programme to support deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) water pumping systems for agriculture and related uses. Under this programme, till 31 March, 1997 a total of 1953 solar PV water pumping systems have been deployed in different parts of the country, of which 66 have been installed in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Government have not sought or received any foreign assistance for this operational programme.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Performance of PSUs in terms of MOU

6495. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the Performance of Central Public Sector Underkings for 1996-97 in terms of Memorandum of Understandings signed;

(b) if so, details of emerging trends of Performance by standard parameters and classification, PSU-wise;

(c) the names of top ten PSUs for their outstanding performance for 1996-97 and bottom ten for their failure to perform;

(d) the details of fresh policy initiatives proposed for better performance of Central PSUs and signing of MOUs with revised focus; and

(e) the tentative time schedule for signing of MOUs and progress made for MOUs of 1996-97 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No Sir, The process is on.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Important policy initiatives undertaken in the MOUs are (i) relatively more emphasis on qualitative parameters like project implementation, R&D, HRD, etc. (ii) The ACRs of the Chief Executives of MOU signing PSEs has been linked to the MOU score in order to improve accountability, (iii) To improve target setting, benchmarking studies are being carried out by professional bodies in respect of various sector. & (iv) 60% of weight in the MOUs has been allocated to financial criteria in order to ensure fiscal discipline.

(e) MOUs are expected to be signed as early as possible with signing by 31st March being considered excellent. So far 99 signed MOUs have been received. Total No. of MOUs expected to be signed is 109.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

6496. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of energy generated from tidal